

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Telephone Interview

Applicants gratefully appreciate the time afforded by Examiner Crepeau during a telephone interview with applicants' attorney on January 31, 2007 regarding the final Office Action. Since applicants' earlier submitted Response to the Final Office Action mailed March 19, 2007, was not entered as noted in the Advisory Action, applicants respond to the final Office Action again in this response.

Allowed Claims

Applicants also gratefully appreciate the indication of allowance of claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 10-15, 18-24, 26, 28, 31, 32, 36, 38-42, and 45 in the final Office Action and the Advisory Action. No limitation on the scope of these claims should be inferred from the remarks below since these claims have already been indicated as being allowable.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

In the final Office Action and the Advisory Action, claims 2-4, 6, 16, 17, 25, 27, 29, 33-35, 37, 43, 44, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, allegedly each of the instant claims makes reference to "purified hydrogen" or a "PEM electrochemical fuel cell," however, independent claims 1, 22, 31, and 40 recite a solid oxide fuel cell or functions to purify oxygen. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons below.

Without acquiescing to the characterization of the operation of the combination fuel cell and ion pump set forth in the final Office Action and Advisory Action, and in an

effort to expedite the allowance of the application, the above rejected claims (i.e., claims 2-4, 6, 16, 17, 25, 27, 29, 33-35, 37, 43, 44, and 46) have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 22, 31, and 40 have been amended to more clearly recite various aspects of applicants' invention. In particular, claims 1, 22, 31, and 40 have been amended for clarification to remove reference to at least one of purify hydrogen and purify oxygen, and instead recite a combination fuel cell and ion pump wherein the ion pump is operable as an oxygen pump to purify oxygen.

It is respectfully submitted that the §112 rejection is now overcome. Withdraw of the §112 rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: May 2, 2007

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